

ranging from Oregon's convoluted tax structure, failing transportation strategy and a higher education system that failed to produce skilled workers. Brad's efforts led to the creation of ChamberPAC, a business advocacy organization.

The amazing level of support Brad was able to generate for businesses in Southern Oregon won him several well deserved and prestigious honors. In 2009, Brad earned the internationally recognized Certified Chamber Executive designation from the Association of Chamber of Commerce Executives. Brad was the only sitting chamber CEO in Oregon to hold this certification, which helped earn him a seat on the United States Chamber of Commerce Committee of 100. Additionally, both the Oregon State Chamber of Commerce and the Western Association of Chamber Executives named Brad the Chamber Executive of the Year. In 2018, the Western Association elected Brad as its Chairman, the first Oregonian to lead the 94-year-old association, which consists of members from 19 Western States and three Canadian provinces.

Brad is most recognized for nearly doubling the size of The Chamber on several occasions and achieving the title of the largest Chamber of Commerce in Oregon and on the West Coast. Brad took The Chamber to even greater heights garnering the respect of the local community, the State of Oregon, and across the Western United States. Brad's focus and work has always been to benefit business owners and communities throughout Oregon and the Nation. In fact, Brad would help a struggling business owner in Jackson County whether they were a member of the Chamber or not because he knew that a thriving business would always be a positive force to the community. Even in retirement, he plans to spend the first year in an advisory role with the Chamber while he builds up his own business consultancy company.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the remarkable career of Brad Hicks. For a man of his ability, who demonstrated superb leadership and dedication to Oregonians and Americans alike, we cannot thank him enough. Brad's achievements and reputation speak for themselves, and as an Oregonian, he has brought great credit to himself, his community, the State of Oregon, and our great Nation as an industrious leader in commerce.

RECOGNIZING THE GILROY CITY COUNCIL DURING PRIDE MONTH

HON. JIMMY PANETTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 28, 2021

Mr. PANETTA. Madam Speaker, I along with Representative LOFGREN, rise to recognize the Gilroy City Council for its historic celebration of Pride Month: the Pride flag will fly for the first time at Gilroy City Hall.

Everyone in our community deserves to feel seen, heard, and loved. By displaying the Pride flag, the City of Gilroy reminds everyone in our community that they have a safe and welcoming home here.

Our country has made so much progress, but despite this, one in three LGBTQ+ Americans have faced some kind of discrimination

in the past year. Members of the LGBTQ+ community continue to face discrimination in their personal lives, in the workplace, and in their access to necessary healthcare.

The significance behind the Pride flag's display is not only to demonstrate acceptance of the LGBTQ+ community in Gilroy, it's also to celebrate the contributions to progress made by so many LGBTQ+ individuals.

Everyone should be able to live their truth without fear of discrimination or violence. Members of the LGBTQ+ community deserve equal rights under the law, to be treated as full and equal citizens, and to be celebrated for their impact on history locally, nationally, and internationally.

Madam Speaker, it is our pleasure to recognize the historic nature of this occasion, and we ask our distinguished colleagues to join us in recognizing this celebration of Pride Month. We extend our personal appreciation to the Gilroy City Council for their support of Gilroy's LGBTQ+ community.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF AMERICAN LEGION POST 337

HON. MIKE GALLAGHER

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 28, 2021

Mr. GALLAGHER. Madam Speaker, today I rise to congratulate the American Legion Post 337 Mixtacki-Johnson on its 100th Anniversary.

Post 337 was formed on May 16, 1921 when 15 founding members came together to sign the Legion constitution in Pulaski, Wisconsin. For 100 years, the Pulaski American Legion Post 337 has upheld the vision of legions across the country to the highest degree. Post 337 proudly carried the name of Pulaski native and World War One veteran, Private Adam Mixtacki, who was killed in action in France in 1918 at just 21 years old upon their founding. In 1950 they added the name of fellow Pulaski resident and Airforce Veteran, Sergeant Harvey Johnson. Sergeant Johnson was killed in action in Germany during World War Two when his B-26 was shot down by enemy fire.

The legion carries on the memory, service, and sacrifice of Private Mixtacki and Sergeant Johnson through their vision of strengthening America by improving the lives of veterans, the military, and their families.

Post 337 has continued to grow from their beginnings of 15 founding members 100 years ago. Post 337 now has members from Brown, Oconto, Shawano, and Outagamie Counties, who work together to teach future generations about the importance of service. The members of the Post 337 are a true inspiration and example for all Americans. The continued service and dedication that the members of Post 337 have shown to not only the Pulaski community, but to the United States of America is deserving of the highest degree of recognition.

As we celebrate the 100th Anniversary of Post 337, we must recognize the outstanding services that they have and continue to provide to Pulaski and surrounding communities. In addition to providing the color guard and rifle squads for local ceremonies, Post 337 enjoys supporting the Pulaski High School and

other organizations in countless ways. Post 337 sponsors sporting events, band trips, Badger Boys State, Youth Government day, offers scholarships and ceremonies, all of which have provided countless opportunities for members of the Pulaski community.

Post 337 has been a voice for the men and women who have served our country. At Post 337 every day they put country before self, just as they did the day they enlisted. American Legion Post 337 Mixtacki-Johnson is a true credit to Northeast Wisconsin.

Madam Speaker, please join me in honoring the Pulaski American Legion Post 337 Mixtacki-Johnson as they come together to celebrate their 100th Anniversary.

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 2021

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 28, 2021

Ms. JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to be joined by my colleague on the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, Ranking Member LUCAS, Research and Technology Subcommittee Chairwoman STEVENS and Ranking Member WALTZ, and numerous other colleagues in introducing the Surface Transportation Research & Development Act of 2021.

Every day, Americans depend on our outdated transportation infrastructure to access essential goods, to connect with friends and family, and to move their products across the country. I applaud President Biden for his ambitious plans to update the nation's transportation systems. I am still hopeful that Congress can come to bipartisan agreement on infrastructure. In any such agreement, we must not lose sight of the critical role of research and development in our transportation future. We must be dedicated to making significant investments in R&D, in partnership with local and state governments and the many non-government stakeholders, to successfully develop the technologies and systems that will make transportation safer, more equitable, more efficient, and more sustainable.

The Surface Transportation Research & Development Act of 2021 authorizes the Department of Transportation's (DOT) surface transportation research, development, and demonstration programs through fiscal year 2027. The legislation supports long-term, high-risk research across all modes of surface transportation. It increases the funding available to all tiers of the University Transportation Centers program and updates the UTC program to better tackle complex crosscutting transportation challenges, like cybersecurity and sustainability.

The bill also supports research to ensure our entire transportation infrastructure remains resilient to natural disasters, extreme weather, and climate change impacts. By creating resilient transportation infrastructure centers of excellence, the bill would support the development of new materials, maintenance standards, and workforce development to mitigate the impacts of climate change. The bill also reauthorizes the Road Weather Centers of Excellence, which were last funded in 2009.

The bill would enable DOT to better plan for the future of surface transportation research, through more regular and focused strategic planning and the establishment of a surface transportation research and development advisory committee. It would fund research to increase understanding of the role that autonomous trucking may play in the future movement of freight as well as its social impact. It ensures that DOT supports research and technology development that meets the needs of smaller metro areas.

These and other investments in transportation research, development, and demonstration in this legislation are necessary to support a safe, resilient, equitable and sustainable transportation future. As the Chairwoman of the Science, Space, and Technology Committee and a senior Member of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, I look forward to working with my colleagues to advance the priorities outlined in this bill for transportation innovation.

IN RECOGNITION OF DORA
BAKOYANNIS, M.P.

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 28, 2021

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Dora Bakoyannis for her outstanding career promoting peace and human rights. Ms. Bakoyannis is the Former Minister of Foreign Affairs of Greece and Former Mayor of Athens. Recently, Ms. Bakoyannis was elected Vice President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE). Ms. Bakoyannis was named Woman of the Year by the Euro-American Women's Council.

Dora Bakoyannis studied Political Science and Communication at the Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich and continued her studies in Political Science and Public Law at the University of Athens.

Ms. Bakoyannis led the fight against terrorism in Greece and abroad, participating in various legislative initiatives, international conferences, and forums such as the United Nations (UN) and the Council of Europe. Her work was inspired by tragedy, as Ms. Bakoyannis lost her husband Pavlas, a journalist and member of the Greek Parliament, to a terrorist assassination on September 26, 1989.

Ms. Bakoyannis is a member of the Greek Parliament and has been consecutively elected since 1989. From 1990 to 1992 she served as the Under-Secretary of State and from 1992 to 1993 as Minister of Culture.

Ms. Bakoyannis has been an inspiration to women all over the world. She was the first woman mayor of Athens, serving from 2002 to 2006, and the first woman appointed Greek Foreign Minister, serving from 2006–2009. In 2003, she was awarded the International Leadership Award by the International Centre for Women. She was also voted "World Mayor" in 2005, included on the Forbes list of the World's Most Powerful Women from 2006 to 2009, and elected as the first female Foreign Associate of the French Academy in Humanities and Political Sciences in 2009.

Ms. Bakoyannis was also President of the U.N. Security Council in 2006 and Chair-

person in Office of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) in 2009. In 2008, she was awarded the Emperor Maximilian Award by the State of Tyrol and the city of Innsbruck. In 2013, she became a Meritus Doctor of the European Polytechnic University of Bulgaria, for her work on south-eastern European nations' path towards membership in the European Union. In the same year she was awarded the OSCE Medal for her work on NATO-Russia relations between Russia and North Atlantic Treaty Organization member states at the 2009 Corfu Summit.

In 2019, Dora Bakoyannis became the Chairperson of the Greek Parliamentary Delegation to PACE, and, in January 2021, she was elected the council's Vice President. She also served as the PACE Rapporteur for the functioning of democratic institutions in Poland and currently serves as Rapporteur for the Syrian crisis. Ms. Bakoyannis is also a member of the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy, the Committee on the Honoring of Obligations and Commitments by Member States of the Council of Europe, the Bureau of the Assembly, and the Sub-Committee on External Relations.

In addition to these accomplishments, Ms. Bakoyannis is Chairperson of the Cross-party Parliamentary Committee for the Development of Thrace, Chair of the American-Greek Parliamentary Friendship Committee, and member of the Russian-Greek and Chinese-Greek Parliamentary Friendship Committees. She is Chairperson of the Greek Parliamentary Delegation to the International Parliamentary Assembly of the Francophonie and is on the Board of Directors of the Brussels-based think tank, Centre for European Policy Studies. She lives in Athens and has two adult children. Ms. Bakoyannis is truly an inspirational example of the strength and competency of women at the highest levels of public service.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the accomplishments of Dora Bakoyannis and expressing appreciation for her dedication to the betterment of all people and especially for her diplomatic work on behalf of international amity.

RECOGNIZING STAFF SERGEANT
JJ ARDIS

HON. RALPH NORMAN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 28, 2021

Mr. NORMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Staff Sergeant JJ Ardis for his heroic actions and outstanding service.

As a Deputy Sheriff in Sumter County, he is a former recipient of the Deputy of the Year Award and two Deputy of the Month Awards. Staff Sergeant Ardis received his most recent award after seizing cocaine, cash, and weapons from a convicted felon who was assaulting his child's mother.

On a separate occasion, Staff Sergeant Ardis arrived on the scene of another deputy's domestic violence call. The suspect, gun in hand, carelessly fired shots into the air while threatening to kill herself. As additional deputies arrived, she struck her house while her children were inside. Staff Sergeant Ardis played a significant role in convincing the woman to drop her weapon. The children re-

mained safe, a potential suicide was averted, and the suspect was taken into custody. Miraculously, none of the deputies had to discharge their own weapons on that call.

Law enforcement officers risk their lives each day to protect precious life and property. Men and women in uniform at the local, State, and Federal levels are essential in safeguarding our communities and deserve to be thanked for their great sacrifice. For years, Staff Sergeant Ardis has put his own life on the line to keep others safe. It is an honor to recognize his valiant efforts and know that his substantial contribution to law enforcement has not gone unnoticed. On behalf of the citizens of the 5th Congressional District of South Carolina, I commend Staff Sergeant JJ Ardis for his brave and humble service.

TRIBUTE TO JORDAN
EHRENKRANZ

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 28, 2021

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to Canyon Lake City Council Member Jordan Ehrenkranz, who passed away on Tuesday, May 4, 2021. Jordan was a tireless and compassionate member of our Riverside County community and he will be deeply missed.

Jordan was born in Los Angeles, California, August 21, 1933. After attending local schools, Jordan began his career by becoming a sheet metal industry apprentice in a shop in Santa Monica. Just a few years later, at the age of 24, Jordan took his first step on what would become a lifelong entrepreneurial path by starting his own business. In 1967, Jordan acquired Ideal Heating and Air Conditioning and shortly thereafter became involved with the local chapter of the Sheet Metal and Air Conditioning Contractors National Association. Jordan would go on to serve in various leadership roles within the association throughout his career and received its Career Legislative Service Award in 2011.

Jordan continued to demonstrate his leadership after moving to the City of Canyon Lake, where he would go on to serve on the Board of Directors for the Canyon Lake Property Owners Association for five years before being elected to the Canyon Lake City Council in 2008. After serving 12 years on the city council, including four years as mayor, Jordan became the longest serving city council member in the city's history. In addition to his community service, Jordan enjoyed bowling, playing poker, and dedicating his time to clubs such as the Men's Golf Club, Canyon Lake Association of Men, Fine Arts Guild, POA Facility Reviews Committee, and the Travel Club. In recognition of his significant involvement, Jordan was fittingly honored as the Canyon Lake Citizen of the Year in 2019.

Jordan is survived by his wife, Jennie Ehrenkranz, their five grown children, and seven grandchildren. I extend my heartfelt condolences to the Ehrenkranz family, his friends, and everyone fortunate enough to know Jordan. Although he may be gone, the many contributions Jordan made to his community and family will have a lasting impact.